Early Years Awards 2009

A Victorian Government initiative
Acknowledgements

Published by the Communications Division

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For further information regarding the Early Years Awards please contact:
Office for Children and Portfolio Coordination
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne VIC 3002
Phone: 9637 3880
Message from the Ministers

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Early Years Awards 2009.

The awards were established to recognise and reward the leadership, dedication and innovation of community partnerships toward improving the health, learning, development and wellbeing of all young children.

Tonight’s finalists have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to early childhood services and a commitment to give Victorian children the best possible start in life.

We congratulate you all on your inspirational efforts.

There are two formal award categories for the 2009 Early Years Awards; Better Access to Early Years Services and Partnerships with Families and Communities.

In addition, this is the third year we will announce a Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Award. This award recognises an extraordinary contribution to early years services.

We know that learning and development starts from day one and that a child’s early experiences have a profound impact on their future prospects.

With Victoria experiencing the biggest baby boom in a generation the services you provide are more vital than ever.

We would like to thank you for your hard work and commitment in nurturing our young children and hope you enjoy the Early Years Awards 2009.

Hon Maxine Morand MP
Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development

Hon Bronwyn Pike MP
Minister for Education
The Early Years Awards recognise the initiatives of early years organisations and the contribution they have made towards building a community for children and parents that provides optimal health, education and support services to ensure the wellbeing of children and their families.

The awards, sponsored by Best Start, present an excellent opportunity to thank the organisations nominated and to publicly promote the positive impact of the innovative projects and initiatives undertaken throughout the year.

Award Categories

The two categories for 2009 are:
1. Better Access to Early Years Services
2. Partnerships with Families and Communities
1. Better Access to Early Years Services

**Early Years Transition to School Project – City of Greater Geelong**

*Partners:*
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Geelong Children’s Early Learning and Education Strategy Group
- Geelong Kindergarten Association
- Rosewall Best Start Project

**Corangamite Transition to School Project – Corangamite Shire Council**

*Partners:*
- Colac/Corangamite Schools Network
- Corangamite Early Years Network
- Corangamite Kindergarten Cluster
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development MPower

**Djillay Lidji Aboriginal Best Start – Djillay Lidji Best Start Partnership**

*Partners:*
- Anglicare
- Baw Baw Shire Council
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Koorie Preschool
- Noah’s Ark Gippsland
- Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Cooperative
- West Gippsland Health Care Group
1. Better Access to Early Years Services (cont)

**Embracing a Vision for Children – Hume City Council**

*Partners:*
- Homestead Child and Family Centre
- Roxburgh Homestead Primary School

**Moe Heights Literacy Project – Good Beginnings in partnership with Latrobe City Council**

*Partners:*
- Best Start Partnership
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Elizabeth Street Primary School, Moe
- Moe Neighbourhood House
- Moving to Learn
- Queen Street Kindergarten, Moe
- The Smith Family

**Orbost Early Years Service Transition and Parent to Parent Project – Orbost Regional Health**

*Partners:*
- Orbost Early Years Reference Group

**Our Children, Our City, Our Future – Early years programs working together to increase access to kindergarten – City of Wodonga**

*Partners:*
- Early Years Coordination, City of Wodonga
- Maternal and Child Health Enhanced Home Visiting Service, City of Wodonga
Finalists

2. Partnerships with Families and Communities

Dandy Pals Hub Initiative – Dandenong Primary School

Partners:
- City of Greater Dandenong
- Mission Australia
- Playgroup Victoria
- Women’s Health in the South East

Glen Eira Mothers Support Program – Glen Eira City Council

Partners:
- Alfred Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Bentleigh Bayside Community Health Service

Hume Playgroup Strengthening Project – Banksia Gardens Community Centre

Partners:
- Broadmeadows Uniting Care
- Hume Early Years Partnership
- Hume Early Years Partnership Executive
- Playgroup Network

Karen Family and Child Project – Wyndham City Council

Partners:
- Children’s Planning Unit, Wyndham City Council
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Kindergarten Units, Wyndham City Council
- Maternal and Child Health, Wyndham City Council
- Victorian Cooperative on Children’s Services for Ethnic Groups
2. Partnerships with Families and Communities (cont)

Moorabool Shire Birthday Postcard Project – Moorabool Shire Best Start

Partners:
- Bacchus Marsh Preschool
- Bacchus Marsh Primary School
- Moorabool Shire Council Maternal and Child Health Service
- Moorabool for Mothers Inc.
- Moorabool Shire primary schools and early childhood services

Support for Playgroups Affected by Bushfires Project – Playgroup Victoria

Partners:
- Save the Children – Victorian Branch
- Sing and Grow Project

The Roxburgh Park Early Learning Centre: Empowering Parents to be Leaders in their Own Community – Victorian Arabic Social Services

Partners:
- Roxburgh Park Early Learning Centre

Reading Early and Learning Together in Greater Shepparton – Greater Shepparton City Council

Partners:
- Berry Street
- Best Start Municipal Early Years Plan
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Family Care
- Goulburn Valley Health
- Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation
- SCOPE
Minister’s Award

The Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Award recognises innovative partnership approaches to engaging local communities and increasing interest in early years.
Thank you

To the judges of the 2009 Early Years Awards:

Members of the Victorian Children’s Council
Hon Sheryl Garbutt
Chair, Victorian Children’s Council
Professor Gay Edgecombe
Victorian Children’s Council
Sue Harper
Victorian Children’s Council

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Lesley Hubble
Acting Assistant General Manager, Programs and Partnerships Division
The Early Years Awards are supported by:

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www.beststart.wic.gov.au

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